

**RUDE**

**issue 21**

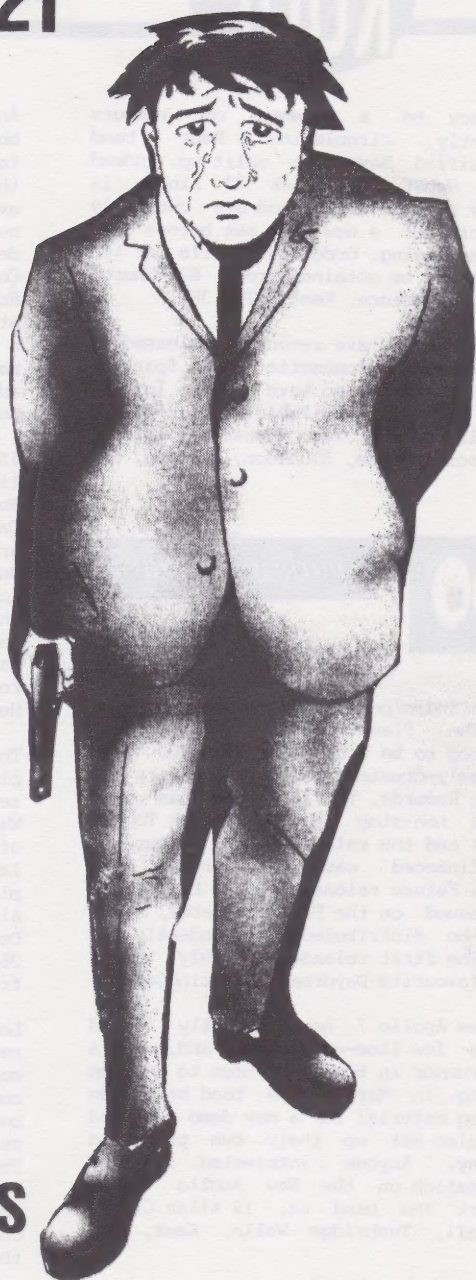
**the bakesys  
german tour  
special**

**interviews:**

**chuck wren  
ngobo ngobo  
the invaders**

**plus:**

**worldwide  
news & reviews**



Contrary to a number of rumours currently circulating Kent band Intensified have not split up. Indeed their debut two track 7" single is nearly ready and the band are currently at work on a new live set before they resume gigging. Ordering details for the single can be obtained from; 82 Church Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 3EN.

The Skanxters have recently released a new four track cassette titled Spark In The Dark. They also have Spark In The Dark T-shirts available. For ordering details contact The Skanxters at; 41 Holdcroft Close, Blunsdon, Swindon, SN2 4AL.



*Spark in the dark*

**the skanxters**

London indie/pop/ska/dub merchants Back To The Planet have signed a deal rumoured to be worth over £100,000 with a newly-created indie subsidiary of London Records. The last year has seen almost non-stop gigging by Back To The Planet and the release of a number of self-financed cassettes through mail order. Future releases by the band will be issued on the Parallel label, which will be distributed independently by RTM. The first release is likely to be live favourite Daydream as a single.

The New Apollo 7 have recently ironed out a few line-up problems and, with a new drummer in tow, they hope to resume gigging in March. The band have been writing material for a new demo tape and have also set up their own promotion company. Anyone interested in more information on the New Apollo 7 can contact the band at; 13 Allan Close, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8PL.

Anyone interested in the cult skinhead books by Richard Allen will be pleased to learn that black and white prints of the books' original covers are now available. The prints are individually numbered & limited to 500, for ordering details contact; Stewart Ross, Rufflets Country House Hotel, Strathkinness Low Road, St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9TX. Here at Rude we have 2 prints to give away in a free competition. To enter send your name & address to the usual Rude address, the winners will be notified by post.

15th February saw the latest in a long line of excellent releases by Hereford's Next Step Records, a 7" single by The Caribbeats. The two tracks on the single are previously unreleased rocksteady numbers from the mid sixties. Next Step hope to release a Caribbeats LP later this year. The label's next release is an album by Earl Sixteen called Not For Sale. For full details of all Next Step releases write to; 15 Trilleck Avenue, Hereford, HR2 7HX.

The Southampton area seems to be the place to be for ska nights. 17th March sees Twotonetwo at the Rhino Club in Waterloo Terrace. The DJs play a mixture of solid 2 tone and nineties ska. Their last do was packed out so if you're planning to attend, get there early! Also watch out for ska nights at St. Deny's Hotel in Aberdeen Road on March 26th and April 23rd. Admission here is free and a good time is guaranteed.

Loonee Toons are still at work on the release of their new album. They also hope to have tracks on two forthcoming compilations; a punk/new wave LP being put out by the motivator and also an US ska album. For further details contact; Too Hot Records, Unit 7, Cable Street Workshops, Cable Street, Northam, Southampton, SO1 1RJ. The band are also currently negotiating a French tour for the summer.



Following a three month lay off from the live circuit 100 Men will soon be back on the road once again. Gigs in the pipeline include an Easter visit to Italy and possible dates in Austria. Negotiations are also well underway for the band's second US tour. Scheduled for October the proposed US dates shall see 100 Men playing alongside Californian soul/reggae outfit Durango 95. Plans are also afoot to bring Durango 95 to the UK in late November for a few dates before both bands head off for Europe.

Issue 6 of the official 100 Men newsletter is now complete and available from the band's new contact address. Simply send a SAE to; OHM Promotions, 22a Frinton Road, Stamford Hill, London, N15 6NH.

**SKANKIN' ROUND**  
**THE X-MAS TREE '92**  
**Desmond Dekker & The Aces \* Laurel Aitken**  
**Mark Foggo's Skasters \* The Hotknives**  
**Flat Fred & The Brains \* Skaboom \* Frits**  
**Mr. Review \* Ngobo Ngobo \* The Quicksteps**  
**28. + 30.12. '92 Ubach-Palenberg/Rockfabrik**



December saw the annual Skankin Round The Xmas Tree festival take place in Ubach Palenberg, Germany. 800 people turned up both nights to see Laurel Aitken, Des Dekker, The Hotknives, Mr Review, Skaboom, Mark Foggo, Ngobo Ngobo, The Frits, The Quicksteps and Flat Fred in action. Stars of the two nights were reportedly The Hotknives who stole the show despite playing with a stand-in bassist. All the bands played great sets with the exception of Des Dekker, who was reportedly dreadful. The Hotknives have already been signed on for the 4th Potsdam Ska Festival in July. For details contact; Moskito Promotion, Kettelerstr. 7, D-4400 Munster, Germany.

German outfit Fun Republic have a new track, Sucker Beat, included on a forthcoming compilation. The compilation

features a collection of bands from the same area as Fun Republic and is being released to promote the local music scene. Fun Republic also hope to release Sucker Beat as a debut single. For details contact; Shark Promotion, RugendasstraBe 4a, D-8900 Augsburg, Germany.

Let's Skank is the latest in a long line of skazines to emerge from France. Issue 1 features articles on The Selecter, Giovanni's, No Sports and The Scofflaws, plus live, zine and record reviews and a worldwide news round up. For a copy send £3 to; 8 Allee des Daims, 91800 Brunoy, France. Issue 2 should be out in April.

Ngobo Ngobo have released a 7" single called Good Fine Day on Peng Records. The two tracks on offer are Good Fine Day and I Feel Fine. For details of all Ngobo Ngobo activities contact Urs Hamaekers at; Siedlungsstr. 60, 6946 Gornheimertal, Germany.

Issue 2 of the German language ska and mod zine Small Wonder is available now from; Jan Kroll, Schulstr. 38, 4322 Sprockhovel, Germany. Included are features on; Fun Republic, Loonee Toons, Intensified and Yebo plus a useful German gig guide. Staying in written word territory, issue 2 of Canadian anti-fascist comic Kinder Nacht is also out now and continues to follow the adventures of the Vancouver based Kinder Nacht Scooter Club. Pick it up now from; Island Easel Imaginations, \*4 1131 Barclay St., Vancouver BC, V6E 1G8, Canada.

American outfit The Skunks are currently hard at work on their latest studio project, a new LP to be called Mixed Nuts. This release follows the band's debut Chaos In Skaville album and more recent 7" single Pinata. Pinata has been picking up good reviews and is still selling well. The new album should see release sometime in the spring, between now and then The Skunks will be playing a number of support slots with The Toasters. For details of all Skunk activities contact; PU Records, PO Box 5, Riverdale, MD 20737-0005, USA.

Fishbone have a new album due for release in May. They are currently in the studio mixing the tracks. The album is to be called Give A Monkey A Brain And He'll Swear He's The Centre Of The Universe and featured tracks include; Black Flowers, Drunk Skitzo, Lemon Meringue and And The Reign. Fishbone can be contacted via the Fishbone Familyhood, PO Box 351444, Los Angeles, CA 90035, USA.

## FISHBONE



Only two issues old but already fast becoming one of the leading US ska zines is Chicago based Incognito Review. Issue 2 features articles on; The Invaders, Bim Skala Bim, Lets Go Bowling, Maroon Town, Me Mom And Morgentaler, No Doubt, The Selector and Special Beat. Pick it up now from; PO Box 1091, Palatine, IL 60078-1091, USA.

Atlanta's first ska festival looks set to take place on Sunday 18th April. Bands provisionally lined up to play include; Bad Manners, The Pietasters, The Hihats, The Skunks, King Apparatus, Skaface and Skapone. The Festival will take place at The Masquerade in Atlanta and tickets are available for 20 dollars from; Allie Sausmer, PO Box 421276-8276, Atlanta, Georgia 30342, USA. The festival may also include a scooter rally and tattoo convention.

Since our last issue we've heard from a number of new bands on the blossoming US scene. Mustard Plug and Javadog are both from the Michigan area and both have tapes available. Javadog can be reached at; 609 S. Foster Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912, USA while Mustard Plug's contact address is; PO Box 1440, Grand Rapids, MI 49501, USA.

Moving on to the Boston area, Thumper's debut CD, Rabbit Wreaking Havoc, was in the WFNX Boston Rock's Top Ten for 3 weeks. Their sound is ska-based laced with hard rock and funk and their CD can be ordered from; 62 Powderhouse Blvd. \*1, Somerville, MA 02144, USA.

Texas outfit Sprawl have released a new all ska CD EP. For details contact; Rastaman Work Ethic Productions, 2140 Lexington, Houston, Texas 77098, USA. And last but not least Buck O Nine have an eight track tape available called Buck Naked and can be pestered at; PO Box 151141, San Diego, CA 92175, USA.

Chicago saw the New Year in in fine style with a marathon 10 hour ska music special on local WNUR FM radio station. DJ Chuck Wren span solid ska discs from 7pm on 31st December through to 5am on 1st January. In addition to the ska marathon on radio, viewers of the US Cable Network were able to see taped live performances of New York ska acts The Toasters and The Scofflaws in between network spot breaks of the featured cult film series Porkys.

Californian outfit Skankin Pickle have released a new seventeen track CD titled Skankin Pickle Fever. The CD was recorded and mixed in 3 days in July 1992 at Soundtech Studios. For details of all Skankin Pickle releases write to; PO Box 35585, Monte Sereno, CA 95030-5585, USA.

Good to hear news from down under as the Oz scene has been very quiet for a while. Both The Allsorts and The Porkers were back in live action in January playing shows with touring Seattle band Easy Big Fella.



# the new Matics

## interview

One of the most recent and more energetic additions to the London ska circuit are eight piece outfit The New Matics. The band were formed in South London in late 1991 and the members were brought together through all knowing Matt the bass player. The current line up of The New Matics is; Ian lead guitar and vocals, Matt bass and backing vocals, Paul organ, Jon sax, Marcus trombone, Rob sax, Stuart drums and Calum bagpipes.

The band's name was decided one day while Ian and Paul were chatting about the subject. Their conversation was interrupted by the sound of a pneumatic drill - a few seconds later The New Matics were named! The New Matics' major influences date from the late seventies - 2 tone, punk and new wave elements can all be found in their music. Their sound has been described as upbeat ska or third generation ska, (a progression from the middle sixties, the late seventies and now the early nineties).

The New Matics first live show was at the Union Tavern in Camberwell in March 1992. To date their gigs have been restricted to the London area but they have appeared with a number of other ska outfits including; The Selecter, Rico, The Bakesys, Intensified and The

Skarabs. The New Matics best show to date was at the Rock Garden in Covent Garden where they played to a full house of tourists who all seemed to think they were in the Hard Rock Cafe!

One of The New Matics biggest coups to date was securing the guest services of ex-Beat drummer Everett Moreton following the split of the International Beat. Everett has played at several New Matics' gigs to date and also played drums on the band's first demo tape.

The tape was recorded over two days at the Camden Lock Studios in London. Five tracks were recorded at the sessions, with four of these (Easy Target, Money In Hell, Can't Hear It Tonite and Doing Time) making it onto the tape. All the songs are original compositions and were co-written by Ian, Matt and Paul.

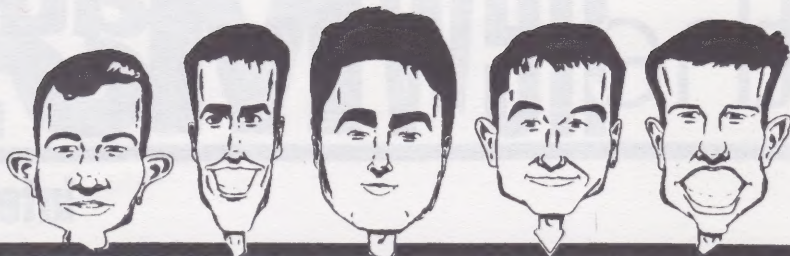
Looking to the future, The New Matics plan to remix the demo tracks for release on a 12" EP single. The band also hope to spread word of their music beyond the confines of London with gigs outside the capital in the near future. Anyone interested in ordering The New Matics' demo can contact the band by writing to Paul Cooper at; 31 The Grange, Shirley, Croydon, CR0 8AP.

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# The



# Bakesys

## german tour special:

Its four o'clock in the morning, you're sat in a freezing cold minibus on a motorway halfway between Kaiserslautern & somewhere else equally unpronounceable, you can't sleep and to cap it all its snowing outside - welcome to The Bakesys' German tour January 1993! Things could only get better and they very quickly did.

## SCHWIMMBAD MUSIK CLUB

### DISCO VIDEO KINO KONZERTE

Öffnungszeiten: Mi u. Do 20 - 2 Uhr, Fr u. Sa 20 - 3 Uhr  
Tiergartenstraße 13 - 6900 Heidelberg - Telefon 47 02 01

## JANUAR

Our first gig was a support slot with The Busters in Heidelberg. A mid morning arrival gave us a chance to have a wander around the town and check out a few of the local bars before heading for the venue after lunch. Slap bang in the middle of a huge university campus, the Schwimmbad Club was, we discovered, quite a well known venue having played host in the past to many famous names including Nirvana and the Henry Rollins Band.

Given The Busters' high popularity we expected to play to a decent size crowd, what we were not quite prepared for was the 350 capacity to sell out in just half an hour! The venue's unusual layout, with the dancefloor banking upwards away from the stage, made you feel like you were entering a gladiators arena. Fortunately this crowd wanted no blood just a good time - our fast and furious set went down a storm and a party was had by all.

A short time later The Busters somehow managed to cram themselves onto the stage (their line up included 2 singers, 2 guitarists, 2 keyboardists and a 4 piece brass section). 13 talented individuals playing in perfect sync certainly produce a powerful performance and tonight The Busters near enough blew the roof off with a show that held the audience engrossed right from the opening chords of the first song Dead Or Alive. Highlights of a set, which included material from all of their previous studio albums plus several new numbers, were Illinois State Police, Busterlor and the brilliant Summertime.

Following a night spent in a Heidelberg hotel with the wildest seventies' style wallpaper we've encountered to date, Thursday saw us head for Stuttgart via a few beers at The Busters' office in Weisloch. Our second gig of the tour was an appearance at the first night of the 4th Stuttgart Ska Festival.

Friday night saw close on one thousand people cram into the Feuerwehrhaus for



the evening's entertainment. Local band Pharaoh House Crash got things underway with a solid set of authentic style ska and reggae. To say we were a touch nervous about appearing in front of a crowd almost double anything we had experienced before would probably be the understatement of the year.

We need not have worried however as once again our music was on the same wavelength as the packed dancefloor and proceedings proceeded swingingly, with us even being called back for an encore. Next up were the night's headline band, The Busters. Could they possibly match up to their superb Wednesday performance? The answer was most definately yes!

The more spacious Feuerwehrhaus stage gave them more room to party and this they did, whipping the crowd up into carnival mood. An encore of Mickey Mouse In Moscow saw Matzgi of Pork Pie Records up on stage to celebrate his birthday in fine style. Last band up were Heidelberg seven-piece outfit Ngobo Ngobo.

I had heard a number of good reports about this band and i certainly was not disappointed by a refreshingly energetic and entertaining blend of catchy reggae and ska. If tonight's show was anything to go by Ngobo Ngobo look set to emerge as one of the top bands of the nineties.

Overall the festival was a huge success, due in no small part to the excellent organization of Gerald Machner and the Cumulus team. Both the bands and the paying public were thoughtfully looked after in pleasant clean surroundings, excellent PA and lighting equipment was used and proceedings ran with clockwork like precision - points a certain ska festival venue in North London would do well to take note of.

Following two high profile support slots with The Busters, Saturday's show in the University town of Tübingen promised to be a more relaxed experience. The small but friendly Epplehaus club played host to a real stormer of a show which was so well received that we spent almost as much time on stage playing encores as we did for our 45 minute set. The party continued afterwards, first in the basement nightclub and then later with a mammoth drunken jamming session which continued until about 6 in the morning.

As with our first German visit back in June we had an excellent time and made many new friends. Once again our German promoters did us proud, putting their English counterparts to shame. We would especially like to thank Thomas Scholz and the rest of the Busters' posse, Gerald Machner, the Cumulus organization, and last but not least Rick Newton for all their help and beer!



**MANNHEIMER SKA-FASCHING '93**

**NGOBO NGOBO**

**THE FRITS**



**After the show: Ska-DJ Stanley Head**

**20. Februar '93**

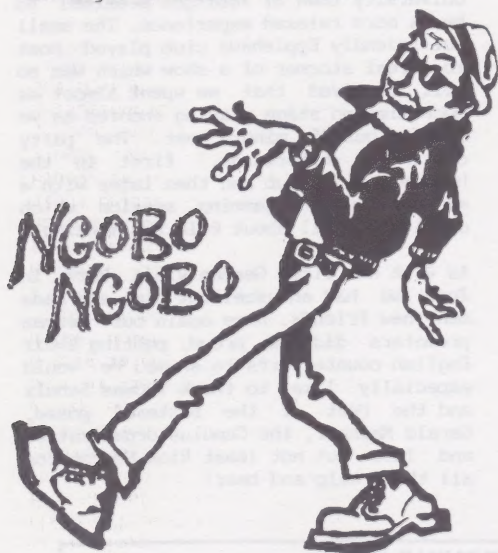
**Einlaß: 19.30 Uhr**

**Feuerwache Mannheim**

# NGOBO NGOBO

## interview

Ngobo Ngobo were formed back in 1988 by a group of five musicians from the town of Weinheim (near to Heidelberg) in Germany. To begin with the band's musical programme consisted solely of cover version songs and had a party character (ie. they only played live at friend's parties). The name Ngobo Ngobo has no real meaning, it was just chosen one night in a state of drunkenness.



Up until the spring of 1991 Ngobo Ngobo had no real aims for the future. However it was then that things began to change. After some personnel changes (a new bass player, keyboard player and saxophonist) they also changed their musical style and their attitudes. Cover songs were almost completely replaced by original compositions and the band began playing in bigger clubs all around Germany. In 1992 a second guitarist joined the band to complete the current line up of; Urs vocals and guitar, Christian vocals, Mike drums and vocals, Bine keyboard and vocals, Filip bass, Flo sax and Oli guitar.

Frontman Urs feels Ngobo Ngobo's sound is difficult to describe. The band has a rock drummer, a funk bassist, a rockabilly guitarist and a singer who's a Toots And The Maytals freak. Their sound is a mixture of all these styles. Their biggest influences are Madness, The Maytals and most of the 60s Jamaican bands. Ninety per cent of Ngobo Ngobo's material is written by Urs but from his first idea to the complete composition, the songs tend to turn into something quite different from what he had planned.

Ngobo Ngobo's first live performance was at a friend's new years party in 1988/89. From the band's personal and attitude shake-up in 1991, Ngobo Ngobo have played about 70 gigs. Their most important gig to date was in 1991 at the Potsdam Ska Festival. The band were the opening act and astonished all present by introducing Rico Rodriguez who then played two numbers with the band. Such a coup for a relatively unknown outfit made Ngobo Ngobo a hit on the German ska scene virtually overnight.

To date Ngobo Ngobo have had just one solo release, a two track 7" single called Good Fine Day (which was put out by Peng Records in 1992). However their two best known tracks both saw release on compilations. Good For Nothing Man was one of four tracks on a free single given out by the German magazine Skintonic last year. And then of course there was Lilly, which was included on Pork Pie Records' recent German ska sampler, Ska Skandal Volume 3.

Looking to the future, Ngobo Ngobo don't have any big plans, they just go on playing gigs and let things happen. The band hope to release a debut LP at some point but are happy to wait for the right deal to arrive. For details of all Ngobo Ngobo activity contact; Urs Hanaekers, Siedlungsstr. 60, 6946 Gornheimertal, Germany.



THE NEW MUSIC FM

W-NUR

chuck wren  
interview

Heard of a bloke called Chuck Wren? Probably not, unless of course you happen to live in the Chicago area and you are into ska music. Not only does Chuck host a weekly ska show on Chicago's WNUR radio, he also helps to put on ska bands live in the area, DJs ska nights in local clubs and puts out a regular worldwide ska newsletter. And all this before breakfast - not bad for a Yank!

From Los Angeles

# LET'S GO BOWLING

Presented with WNUR 89.3 FM

Guest DJ Chuck Wren

**METRO**  
3730 N. Clark Sept. 18

Chuck first became really interested in ska music during his high school years where his school's small radio station had a show dedicated to 2 tone. He grew up listening to Chicago's WNUR radio station and when he decided on college, WNUR was the main reason why he attended North Western University. As a student Chuck spent his first year working as an apprentice on WNUR's rock show format.

Eventually after he had "put in his time" Chuck proposed that the station start a ska show at the weekends. The station's programming board were completely against the idea, claiming that ska as a music genre was totally dead. Reluctantly they approved a ska show when a sports talk show could not fill the time anymore. That was the

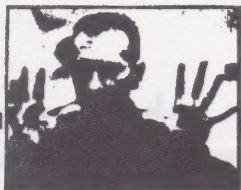
summer of 1989, Chuck has been doing his ska show every Sunday since then!

The mailing list for Chuck's show currently numbers over 400 people but these are just the seriously interested ska fans. Ratings analysis add several hundred more people to the equation as 'passive' listeners to the show. WNUR FM is in fact a 7200 watt station that has a coverage radius of over 50 miles. It broadcasts to the city of Chicago (third largest city in the States), the Northern and Western suburbs and to parts of Indiana and Wisconsin.

Chuck has been DJing at clubs, concerts and parties since the ska show began in 1989. His show has sponsored every ska gig in the city during this time through ticket give-aways, direct mail and DJ nights. Bands that he has helped to put on in Chicago include; Bad Manners, Lets Go Bowling, The Scofflaws, Skankin Pickle, King Apparatus, Skapone and Gangster Fun. The best band Chuck has seen to date are The Scofflaws, "the tightest horns in existence with an energetic, entertaining & unpredictable stage show".

The Chicago ska scene is currently pretty strong. Now that the radio show helps bands come to Chicago, the scene attracts people from all walks of life. A good crowd for the big shows is about 500 people, though with a little hard work, Chuck is confident this number will rise in the next few years.

In 1993, Chuck feels the bands to watch out for are; Hepcat, Mephiskapheles, Ngobo Ngobo, Steady Earnest, Dr Calypso, Ska Flames and Jump With Joey - these bands will definately be hitting in 93! Chuck is always on the lookout for new ska material, any bands interested in receiving radio airplay in the Chicago area should contact Chuck at; 4409% Greenview \*2W, Chicago, IL 60640, USA.



## MUSIC

### reviews

Square Roots

Square Roots

Square Roots Records

California here we come once again this time with ten piece outfit Square Roots' debut CD. A refreshing package is on offer with the band approaching a brass-driven ska theme from a number of musical angles. There's the fast and furious 2 tone of Program Zero and Waiting For My Ships, the jazzy calypso lilt of Try and the laid back rap/reggae blend of Nobodies Business and Pleasure Point Posse. The vocals are to say the least bizarre but even these grow on you after a few plays.

# SQUARE ROOTS

Rabbit Wreaking Havoc

Thumper

Thumper Tunes

The Boston area of the States certainly has a knack of producing class acts. Following in the footsteps of Bim Skala Bim and The Mighty Mighty Bosstones come eight piece outfit Thumper. This debut nine track CD showcases a talented band with a great vocalist, some very catchy tunes and a promising future. On tracks like Do Something and Show Up You, their powerful sound blends brass laden ska and thrash in a similar vein to The Bosstones. Its an enticing mixture that should appeal not just to fans of ska and thrash but to a more mainstream audience as well.

Mashing Up The Nation

Various

Square Records

A fascinating compilation of American ska that was initially put together in 1989 but has only just seen release on Square Records. All the recordings are at least four years old and amongst the twenty two tracks on offer are rare early offerings from bands who today lead the US ska scene (Bim, Bosstones, Gangster Fun, Lets Go Bowling and The Toasters). Pick of an interesting insight into early US ska are Bim Skala Bim with Diggin A Hole and The Mighty Mighty Bosstones with the raucous Wallet.

Time Will Tell

Bob Marley

Tuff Gong/Polygram Video

Following the excellent Talkin Blues and Songs Of Freedom packages, Island once again come up trumps with an excellent hour and a half of video footage of Marley's words and music. Featured are interviews, concert performances and rare rehearsal footage and it is engrossing viewing from start to finish. Songs featured include less known numbers like Coming In From The Cold, So Much Trouble and Them Bellyfull as well as many of his best known tracks. Very much an essential purchase!

Old Rocking Chair

The Ska Flames

Next Step Records

Two more blinding tracks from the land of the rising sun courtesy of, in my books, the finest authentic ska outfit in the world today - The Ska Flames. Old Rocking Chair is an uptempo affair which chugs along nicely supplemented by strong brass. The real action however is found on the flip side, where Japan's finest serve up a delicious rocksteady reworking of the classic If You Dont Know Me By Now.



Four track demo

The New Matics

New Matics Music

Undoubtedly pick of this issue's releases, The New Matics breeze in on a contagious wave of uptempo 90s ska laced with a pot pourri of late 70s influences. Try keeping your feet still to the likes of Easy Target and Doing Time - dead bouncy, dead catchy and dead good!

United Colors Of Beggars ITA

Beggars ITA

Words Of Warning Records

Currently the toast of NME and Melody Maker and now under the all powerful wing of EMI Records, The Beggars look set for the rosiest of rosy futures. This excellent release sees their staunchly anti-fascist messages rammed home to the listener by a barrage of hard hitting uptempo rhythms. Their sound is hard to pigeon-hole but if you take The Redskins as a starting point, pepper them with doses of punk, hardcore, dub and rap, then you won't be far from the mark.

Night Boat To Cairo

Madness

Virgin Records

The Magnificent 7 return not very magnificently. The original 1980 mix is as brilliant as ever & brings back fond memories of many a sweaty school disco. The 4 new mixes are very disappointing however. 2nd rate modern dance tracks possibly, Madness most certainly not!

Black And Dekker/Compass Points

Desmond Dekker

Dojo Records

This CD kicks off with 1980 reworkings of such classics as Israelites, It Mek and 007 recorded by Dekker backed by members of The Rumour, Equators and Akrylykz (including a youthful Roland Gift on sax). The tracks are in the main more uptempo than the originals with Dekker evidently keen to latch onto the 2 tone revival of that time. The last eleven tracks, recorded in 1981 & produced by Robert Palmer, see Dekker moving into UB40-style reggae territory. Pretty solid but not earth-shattering.

The Hitting Line Crosses The Border

The International Beat

Dojo Records

-A real shame that this album only saw release in the UK after the band's split. 16 tracks are on offer featuring The International Beat's well crafted popsteady sound. In the live arena the band relied heavily on original Beat numbers to carry their performance but tracks like Are You Ready and the superb Head Mans Plans (featuring Ranking Roger) show why they will be sorely missed in their own right.

Rough And Tough

Mike Brooks/Earl Sixteen/Skaville Train

Next Step Records

More solid ska with a heavy sixties feel from West Country outfit Skaville Train in collaboration with vocalists Mike Brooks and Earl Sixteen. Rough And Tough sees Skaville Train in a downtempo laid back mood with the usual brass accompaniment replaced by sweet harmonica melodies.

Skankin Pickle Fever

Skankin Pickle

Dill Records

Here is one band who certainly don't believe in putting all their eggs in one basket. Ok so the majority of the 17 songs on offer are ska based to some extent, but a whole range of other influences ranging from the Red Hot Chili Peppers to The B52s shine through time and again. It's a freakish collision of ska, punk, metal, reggae, rap, funk and just about anything else that can be squeezed in, but it's also devilishly addictive entertainment.

Four track demo

Bigger Thomas

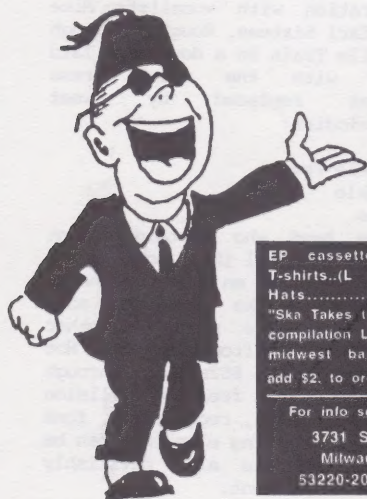
Biggest Thomas Music

New Jersey outfit Bigger Thomas follow up their debut LP in fine fashion with this tape. As before the band deliver a heady brew of pounding ska, reggae, calypso and African township rhythms, with the mixture working best on the tracks I Can't Remember My Name and Mento. Hopefully a second album will follow soon.

# INVADERS

## interview

The Invaders have been playing together as a ska-based unit since 1990. However the band was playing under the name two years prior to this. It was 1988 when Max and Dean first got together with a few other friends in Milwaukee to write songs and select covers to play. To begin with The Invaders played mostly college orientated alternative rock but they soon became bored with the club scene and bored with the music.



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For info send SASE to...

3731 S. 56th St.  
Milwaukee, WI  
53220-2046 U.S.A

After a few member changes The Invaders returned playing a new style of music for them - ska. The band's line up is currently six strong - Max on vocals and percussion, Dean on guitar and vocals, Adam on keyboards, Pete on drums, Moises on bass and Dave on trombone.

The Invaders' sound has changed a lot since the band's early days. Their influences range considerably from 60's ska, 2 tone and today's diverse ska to the not so obvious like Devo, Camper Van Beethoven and the Greatful Dead.

To date The Invaders' performances in the live arena have been mainly restricted to the Milwaukee area. In September 1991 Max organized Milwaukee's first ska festival which was a great success and included live appearances by Gangster Fun, Rude Guest, State Of Emergency, Tom Collins And The Cocktail Shakers and of course The Invaders. Despite a number of successful Invader shows, the local media has hardly given the band a mention and this has led the band to be sometimes bitter of their hometown. During the course of 1993 The Invaders hope to play more shows away from their local area.

The Invaders' first studio release was a cassette called Dancing In The Fallout but their first real ska release was 1991's Skank Tank album. Skank Tank featured ten tracks, received favourable reviews and is still selling well today. Skank Tank was the band's first opportunity to spread word of their music to a wider audience and it served its purpose well with Invader songs being heard on the radio out in California and as far away as England, and the band receiving mail from all over the US and Europe.

The band feel however, that they have developed much since the recording of Skank Tank and are anxious to release their next project, a second album called Tropical Gangsters. The Invaders will soon be in the studio to complete work on this new twelve track album. The LP will be released in the States by Debussy Records in mid 93, with possible European and Canadian distribution by Bodoski and Raw Energy Records respectively. The band are currently breaking in a new bass player and also auditioning for a new sax player. Anyone interested in finding out more about The Invaders can contact the band at; 3731 South 56th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53220-2046, U.S.A.